

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR IN

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI ALLEGES OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA

FROM MADRAS FEB 14 IS REPEATED

QUOTE

MADRAS 0299

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI ALLEGES OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE

1. PRIME MINISTER MRS. GANDHI, INAUGURATING THE FIFTH ALL-INDIA FREEDOM FIGHTERS' CONFERENCE IN BANGALORE FEBRUARY 12, SAID: MANY OUTSIDE FORCES ARE ANNOYED AND IRRITATED BY THE STEADY ECONOMIC PROGRESS MADE BY THE COUNTRY. NOT ONLY DID THEY DISCOURAGE US, BUT THEY TRIED TO PREVENT US FROM MARCHING FORWARD. BECAUSE OF THE TRAINING AND DISCIPLINE THE COUNTRY HAD UNDER MAHATMA GANDHI, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA COULD WITHSTAND PRESSURES BROUGHT ON BY OUTSIDE FORCES." SHE ALSO SAID THAT THE STEPS TAKEN FOR INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT WERE FIRM AND STRONG AND THE DIRECTION THEY HAD TAKEN WAS SO CLEARLY OUTLINED THAT THEY DID NOT THINK THAT ANYBODY

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COULD MOVE THE COUNTRY

FROM THAT DIRECTION. SHE SAID INDIA HAD NO DESIGNS AGAINST ANY COUNTRY, BUT WOULD NOT TOLERATE "ANY THREAT VISIBLE OR INVISIBLE". ACCORDING TO AMACHAR "IN A RAISED VOICE THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT NO COUNTRY HAD THE RIGHT TO ASK US TO REMAIN WEAK AND SURRENDER OUR SELF-RESPECT."

2. MRS. GANDHI SAID SOME GROUPS, PARTIES AND INDIVIDUALS TRIED TO PLACE OBSTRUCTION TO THE PROGRAMS NOT REALIZING THAT OBSTRUCTION MANT WEAKNESS OF THE COUNTRY. SHE POINTED OUT THAT THEY QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF STARTING THIS INDUSTRY OR THAT SCHEME. THEY ASKED WHY INDIA NEEDED A STRONG ARMY AND NUCLEAR ENERGY. SHE SAID INDIA NEEDED ALL THAT TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF POVERTY, TO KEEP INDIA'S FRONTIERS CLEAR AND TO KEEP THE SELF-RESPECT OF THE NATION.

3. ADDRESSING A MEETING OF CONGRESS (R) WORKERS IN BANGALORE THE SAME DAY, MRS. GANDHI CONDEMNED THE OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR TAKING TO THE PATH OF AGITATION WHEN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION DETERIORATED (IN THE POST-1969 PERIOD , AND SAID: "THE MOVEMENTS AND AGITATIONS THAT USED TO DISRUPT THE COUNTRY'S PEACE HAD THE SUPPORT THE SYMPATHEIS OF POWERFUL OUTSIDE GROUPS." THE CONGRESS, SHE SAID, HAD ALWAYS ACCEPTED THE VERDICT OF THE PEOPLE. "WHEN IT SUFFERED REVERSES, IT DID NOT GO OUT OF THE WAY TO DISTURB OTHER (NON-CONGRESS) GOVERNMENTS. IT TOOK THE LINE THAT THE OPPOSITION AND COALITION GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO FUNCTION PROVIDED NOTHING WAS DONE AGAINST THE THE NATIONAL INTEREST. SIGNED EAVES

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